

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07315 181223Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----098838 181223Z /53

O R 181127Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2893
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 7315

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, US, MNUC
SUBJECT: GOP DECISION TO PROCEED WITH REPROCESSING

REF: ISLAMABAD 7274

1. AT PRIVATE LUNCH WITH AMBASSADOR HUMMEL, PAKISTANI
AMB TO WASHINGTON, YAQUB KHAN DESCRIBED RATIONALE
FOR DECISION BY THE MILITARY GOVT NOT TO POSTPONE TRANSFER
OF REPROCESSING TEC WOLOGY.

2. YAQUB KHAN SAID HE HAD HAD LONG TALK WITH HEAD OF
GOVT GEN ZIA, AS WELL AS WITH OTHERS IN GOP. DECISION
WAS CALCULATED ONE, AND WAS BASED ON RELUCTANT CONCLUSION
THAT IMPOSITION OF SYMINGTON AMENDMENT AND CESSATION
OF US ECONOMIC AID WAS LESSER OF EVILS. GREATER EVIL,
IN VIEW OF MILITARY COUNCIL, WOULD HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE
CHARGE BY PPP (READ BHUTTO) THAT MILITARY GOVT BY
POSTPONING ACQUISITION OF REPROCESSING PLANT (A) HAD
PROVED THAT INTERIM GOVT IS NOT, AS PROFESSED, A HIGH-
MINDED AND NEUTRAL CARETAKE BUT IN FACT HAD MADE
LONG-TERM DECISIONS THAT ADVERSELY AFFECT PAKISTAN'S
SECURITY AND (B) ALSO PROVED THAT BHUTTO'S ALLEGATIONS

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OF US INTERFERENCE WERE TRUE, AND THAT USG MAY HAVE
HAD A HAND IN MILITARY TAKEOVER IN ORDER
TO ACHIEVE USG REPROCESSING GOALS AS WELL AS ACHIEVING
REMOVAL OF BHUTTO.

3. COMMENT: THIS RECITAL HAS A CERTAIN RING OF
AUTHENTICITY. IT ALSO APPARENTLY CLOSES DOOR ON ANY

FURTHER EFFORTS TO PERSUADE INTERIM GOVT TO POSTPONE
ACTION ON REPROCESSING PLANT, LEAVING OUR BEST AND ONLY
HOPE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH.

4. YAQUB KHAN ALSO WENT TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO ASSERT
THAT THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT DISAGREEMENT WITHIN HIGHER
RANKS OF MILITARY ON THIS OR ANY OTHER ISSUES. ALL
CORPS COMMANDERS, HE ASSERTED, AGREED WITH GEN ZIA'S
DECISION TO TAKE OVER. WHILE WE DO NOT HAVE SPECIFIC
INFORMATION TO THE CONTRARY, WE MAY SUSPECT THAT YAQUB
KHAN WAS TRYING TO PUT BEST FACE ON NEW GOVT
WHICH IS COMPOSED OF HIS MILITARY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES.

5. YAQUB KHAN SAID HE WAS SURE THAT ANY SUSPICIONS
ABOUT PAST USG INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF
PAKISTAN HAD BEEN DISPELLED, IMPLYING THAT HE HAD
PLAYED A ROLE INCONVINCING THE MILITARY GOVT ON
THIS SCORE.
HUMMEL

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NNN

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